



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
BARBOSA, M. )  
Serial No.: 09/988,193 )  
Filed: November 19, 2001 )  
For: DRUM BRAKE BACKING PLATE )

Art Unit: 3683

Examiner: NGUYEN, Lan

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RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Hon. Director of the Patent  
and Trademark Office  
Washington, D. C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the office action of October 3, 2003, please amend the above identified application as follows:

In the claims:

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Claim 1. (Amended) A backing plate comprising:

abutment plate means for resisting braking forces, and

a shielding plate made of damped steel configured to shield brake components from dust and dirt and reducing noise and vibrations.

Claim 3. (Amended) A backing plate according to claim 1 wherein said damped steel comprises outer and inner layers of steel and an inner layer of vibration dampening material, said layers of steel being of approximately equal thickness.

Claim 4. (Amended) A backing plate comprising an abutment plate having a first part configured to be attached to an axle of a vehicle and a second part configured to resist braking